



LEE HARRIS
MAYOR

SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ALISA R. HAUSHALTER, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC
DIRECTOR

BRUCE RANDOLPH, MD, MPH
HEALTH OFFICER



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

February 19, 2021

***effective immediately**

HEALTH ORDER AND DIRECTIVE REGARDING MEMPHIS LIGHT GAS & WATER'S BOIL WATER ADVISORY

Pursuant to the Declarations of a State of Emergency
by Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris
and the Necessity of a Communicable Disease Control Threat Procedure
by the Shelby County Health Department

TO: Residents, Visitors, and Owners/Operators of Services, Facilities, and/or
Businesses in Shelby County, Tennessee

FROM: Lee Harris, Shelby County Mayor
Bruce Randolph, M.D., M.P.H, Shelby County Health Officer
Alisa Haushalter, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, Shelby County Health Director

RE: Public Health Announcement on Boil Water Advisory

On February 18, 2021, Memphis Light Gas and Water (MLGW) issued a "Precautionary Boil Water Advisory" (attached) asking all of its customers to boil water before using it for consumption. Specifically, all customers are advised to use boiled or bottled water for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice. Water used for any of these purposes should be prepared by bringing the water to a boil, letting it boil for three (3) minutes, and letting it cool before using. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.

Water main breaks and water production issues have resulted in a loss of system pressure which can introduce disease-causing organisms into the water system. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as

nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. The symptoms above are not solely caused by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water.

For the foregoing reasons, the following health measure is necessary to protect the public:

Until MLGW's boil water advisory ends, all MLGW customer businesses that provide prepared food and/or beverages must remain closed if they are unable to boil water before using it to prepare any food or beverage for public consumption. This includes discontinuing any use of ice machines that directly use tap water.

Businesses should already be offering customers suitable means for washing or disinfecting their hands to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Such measures are also a vital component in food preparation because they help curtail food borne illnesses and promote healthy hygiene.

For more information about the Health Department's Environmental Sanitation and Food Safety Program, visit our website: www.shelbytnhealth.com.

Approved and adopted by:

BRUCE RANDOLPH, M.D., M.P.H.,
SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

ALISA HAUSHALTER, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC,
SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DIRECTOR

Mission

To promote, protect and improve the health and environment of all Shelby County residents.

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